

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO  
ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE**

Town of Judith Gap Water and Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report  
October 27, 2021  
Town of Judith Gap  
PER – Administrative Action  
46.68, -109.75  
Wheatland County

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

The Town of Judith Gap seeks to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to analyze its need for improvements to its water and wastewater systems. The Town is served by water distribution and sewer collection systems that include a mix of relatively new mains and service connections that were installed with a project completed in 2011 and remaining aging infrastructure components that are undersized and degrading, causing leaks that result in water loss and the potential for exfiltration of raw sewage into the ground. The Town's lagoon is experiencing bubbling in its lagoon liner which decreases the overall capacity of the lagoon and has the potential to cause leakage into the ground or an overflow situation for the effluent.

Developing a Preliminary Engineering Report for the Town of Judith Gap to evaluate options for improvements to its water and wastewater systems will assist the town in prioritizing and funding the identified needs to meet current water quality, effluent, and operational standards. The PER will include an evaluation of environmental resources present, determine the cause and extent of any water loss or contamination, and consider alternatives that include water and energy efficiency and the potential for utilizing green infrastructure. Project recommendations resulting from the PER will address replacement of aging infrastructure that is causing a loss of water resources and potentially contaminating the land and groundwater. An Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Study of the wastewater system will be conducted to determine the extent of water and potential contamination issues and help prioritize line replacement within the system. The PER will also evaluate existing water distribution system, identify any critical improvements and plan for additional water meters on the system to aid in detecting and preventing waste of water resources.

The PER is scheduled for completion during Spring/Summer 2022.

**Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action:**  
DNRC approved the grant to provide funding for the Town of Judith Gap.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

### **ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)**

- ✓ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

<b>Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Sonja Hoeglund <b>Email:</b> shoeglund@mt.gov	<b>Date:</b> 10/27/2021
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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 11/15/2021   9:49:38 AM MST

